

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1003

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to recognize Sheriff Ronald Seals of the Sevier County Sheriff's Office on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Ronald Seals of the Sevier County Sheriff's Office is one such estimable individual, who has devoted his life to the preservation of law and order and the protection of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, after a forty-nine-year career spanning six decades of service to the citizens of Sevier County, Sheriff Seals will be taking his much-deserved retirement at the end of his current term in office on August 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Ronald Seals is a native of Sevier County who grew up in the Sevierville community and currently makes his home in the New Center area with his wife, Wanda, and his family; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Sevier County High School in 1970, he attended Walters State Community College, from which he received an associate degree in criminal justice in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Seals began his career in law enforcement in 1973, when he was hired by the Sevier County Sheriff's Office; he served the office in a number of capacities over the next four years, including as a dispatcher, correction officer, deputy sheriff in the patrol division, and sergeant in the patrol division; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Sheriff Ronald Seals joined the Pigeon Forge Police Department; during his four-year tenure, he served as a police officer in the patrol division, sergeant in the patrol division, and assistant chief of the police department; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Seals graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in 1978 and returned to the Sevier County Sheriff's Office in 1979 to serve as deputy chief over administration; he also served as jail administrator and chief deputy; and

WHEREAS, after managing the county's main jail expansion in 2002, he transitioned the administrative offices of the Sheriff's Office, Records Division, Criminal Investigation Division, and Communications Division from their old location to their current location on West Bruce Street; and

WHEREAS, upon the death of Sheriff Bruce R. Montgomery in 2007, Sheriff Seals was appointed to serve as Sheriff of Sevier County, a position to which he was elected in his own right in 2008 and reelected in 2010, 2014, and 2018, during which time he created a professional records division designed to store warrants, reports, and civil processes and was involved in the design and construction of the new Sevier County Jail; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Ronald Seals worked closely with the Sevier County Commission and the Sevier County Mayor's Office to construct the Sevier County Jail Annex, which opened in April 2008 and was expanded in 2010; and

WHEREAS, after the county acquired the former Ambulance Service Building in 2010, Sheriff Seals redesigned the original blueprint in order to relocate the Patrol Division, Community Relations Office, GIS Mapping Office, and Video Forensics Unit into the repurposed building, now known as the Special Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, one of Sheriff Seals's proudest accomplishments in office came in 2014, when the Sevier County Sheriff's Office received accreditation from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated member of his profession and an active member of his community, Sheriff Ronald Seals is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Sevier, a member of the Mountain Star Lodge #197 F&A Masons, French Broad Lodge #588 F&A Masons, the Scottish Rite, and the Kerbela Shrine; he is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police-Smoky

Mountain Lodge #31 and the Southern States Police Benevolent Association Smoky Mountain Chapter; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Sheriff Seals was named Tennessee Sheriff of the Year by the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association in 2012, an award that has special meaning to the sheriff, as he was selected to receive the honor by the other ninety-four sheriffs in this State; in 2014, he was recognized by Walters State Community College with the Distinguished Alumni Civic Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, he was presented with the Humane Law Enforcement Award by the Humane Society of the United States for his leadership in combating animal abuse; later that year, he received the HEAL Award from H.E.A.L. (Help, Educate, Address, Locate) of Sevier County for his efforts to stop Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Ronald Seals exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Sheriff Seals has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues and the citizens of Sevier County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Sheriff Ronald Seals on his exemplary career with the Sevier County Sheriff's Office and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.